Kilmichael Land Management Plan Summary

Kilmichael LMP was approved on 30-3-2021 and runs for 10 years.

Vision

Kilmichael Land Management Plan (LMP) area comprises a landscape scale unit of 8790Ha (See Map 1). The plan area comprises of four forest blocks, Kilmichael, Kilmory, Ardcastle and Minard and is located to the west of Loch Fyne, between the villages of Minard, Lochgilphead and Kilmichael. While Sitka Spruce is the dominant productive species due to site constraints, opportunities do exist to diversify both species and age structure. The forest has a comprehensive road network which has enabled restructuring to be carried out across most of the mature forest area. Due to the location it is a popular area for locals and tourists to visit, with facilities at Ardcastle, Glashan and Achnabreac.

Much of the forest area comprises of predominantly similarly aged Sitka Spruce (54%), with 25% of the area open ground. A number of areas have been felled and 2nd rotation crops now successfully establishing, though it may require another rotation to fully implement a more robust and resilient coupe and age structure. Species diversity is a priority as is improving the linkage and connectivity between riparian corridors and open ground across the forest where it contributes to bio-diversity and landscape. The LMP area also contributes to meeting the District’s timber production targets.

There are renewables schemes within the plan area, both commercial and private. There is the A’Chruach windfarm and , as well as the hydro scheme from Loch Glashan, and other private supplies. The new Inveraray- Crossing powerline cuts through the plan area. But ;landscape impacts are modest due to terrain and alignment of the line.

The forest area is predominantly surrounded by agriculture with areas of private commercial forest on the southern boundaries. Agricultural enterprises are mainly sheep farming. This offers some limited interaction between forestry and agriculture. Stock fencing and sheep trespass will remain important factors within the LMP area in relation to the success of restock establishment.

The primary objectives for the plan area are:

* High volume timber production and carbon sequestration from a wide range of conifer species with the emphasis on matching species with site, and utilising the existing road network.
* Enhance the landscape by coupe design and restocking proposals, with the focus being on the Forest Fringe and the A83 transport corridor.
* Evaluate deep peat areas and restore as appropriate to maximise carbon sequestration. Aim for W4 NVC type where possible to maintain forest cover.
* Maintain and enhance the recreational infrastructure & Community wellbeing by providing an appropriate Forest matrix for recreation and amenity.
* Maintain & enhance water quality in relation to both private and public water.
* Restore PAWS areas to create wider coastal native woodland linkages.
* Manage the River Add catchment and riparian zones to enhance the habitat for key species.
* Maintain and enhance Black Grouse & Red Squirrel habitat.
* Maintain the resilience of renewable infrastructure, powerlines and transport links by appropriate forest management and maintenance of the forest road network.
* Reduce the occurrence risk and potential impacts of *Phytophthora ramorum* by felling Larch areas at the earliest feasible opportunity.

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| --- | --- |
| **Total Plan Area** | 8790 hectares (ha) |

# **Summary of Land Management Plan Proposals**

| Species Group | Current - 2020 | | Year 10 - 2029 | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Area (ha) | % | Area (ha) | % |
| Sitka Spruce | 4712.48 | 54 | 4745.09 | 54 |
| Diverse conifers | 769.16 | 9 | 921.45 | 11 |
| Mixed Broadleaves | 297.76 | 3 | 297.76 | 3 |
| Native Broadleaves | 214.38 | 2 | 360.32 | 4 |
| Open | 2205.61 | 25 | 2464.85 | 28 |
|  | **8789.47** |  | **8789.47** |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Planned Operations** | **2020– 2029 plan period** |
| Felling  Thinning- Silvicultural  Thinning- Site management  Restocking  Road construction | 800ha  1588ha  2875ha  1140ha  11,268m |
| **Significant Environment / Conservation Features** |  |
| Designated sites (See Map 4)  Natural Reserve (See Map 9)  Priority habitats/species | 7 Scheduled Monuments (SM) and Numerous Unscheduled Monuments (USM)  7 NR areas  Priority habitats & priority species |

**Critical Success Factors:**

* Ongoing deer control in relation to PAWS restoration & establishment of softer conifer species.
* Creating road extensions to harvest the remaining over mature but currently inaccessible crop.
* Create road extensions to bring Kilmory into CCF management and enhance path linkages.
* Adapt CCF in Kilmory to windblow or disease events.
* Finalise a sustainable transport route option for Kilmichael Glen.
* Maintaining and enhancing water quality and ecological status of River Add Catchment.

# **Consultation and Further Information:**

Council area: Argyll & Bute Council

Community council: Southend Community Council

Consultation: Public consultation February 2019

For further information on the Plan, please contact:

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**Location Map**

